UNITED
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A

General Assembly

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A/RES/54/31
18 January 2000

Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 40 (*a*)

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/54/L.31 and Add.1)*]

54/31. Oceans and the law of the sea

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 49/28 of 6 December 1994, 52/26 of 26 November 1997 and 53/32 of 24 November 1998 and other relevant resolutions adopted subsequent to the entry into force of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea[1] ("the Convention") on 16 November 1994,

Recalling also its resolution 2749 (XXV) of 17 December 1970, and considering that the Convention, together with the Agreement relating to the implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982[2] ("the Agreement"), provides the regime to be applied to the Area and its resources as defined in the Convention,

Emphasizing the universal character of the Convention and its fundamental importance for the maintenance and strengthening of international peace and security, as well as for the sustainable use and development of the seas and oceans and their resources,

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[1] *Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea,* vol. XVII (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.V.3), document A/CONF.62/122.

[2] Resolution 48/263, annex.

Conscious that the problems of ocean space are closely interrelated and need to be considered as a whole,

Noting with satisfaction the increase in the number of States parties to the Convention and the Agreement,

Recognizing the impact on States of the entry into force of the Convention and the Agreement and the increasing need, particularly of developing States, for advice and assistance in their implementation in order to benefit thereunder,

Noting that developing countries, in particular small island developing States, may need assistance in the preparation and publication of charts under articles 16, 22, 47, 75 and 84 and annex II to the Convention,

Taking note with concern of the financial situation of the International Seabed Authority ("the Authority") and of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea ("the Tribunal"),

Conscious of the need to promote and facilitate international cooperation at the subregional, regional and global levels in order to ensure the orderly and sustainable development of the uses and resources of the seas and oceans,

Conscious also of the importance of education and training in the field of ocean affairs and the law of the sea,

Reaffirming the strategic importance of the Convention as a framework for national, regional and global action in the marine sector, as recognized also by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in chapter 17 of Agenda 21,[3]

Welcoming the review by the Commission on Sustainable Development on oceans and seas and the adoption of the recommendations made by the Commission through the Economic and Social Council,[4]

Taking note of the major challenges as well as the areas of particular concern facing the international community, as formulated in the recommendations on oceans and seas made by the Commission on Sustainable Development through the Economic and Social Council,[5]

Expressing its concern in this context at the continuing threat posed to the sea by the dumping of nuclear waste and other toxic substances,

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[3] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

[4] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1999, Supplement No. 9* (E/1999/29), chap. I.C, decision 7/1.

[5] Ibid., paras. 3–36.

Recognizing the positive benefits for the marine environment that can be achieved through cooperative work within the regional seas programme of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Expressing its concern at the increasing threat to shipping from piracy and armed robbery at sea and its appreciation and support for the ongoing work of the International Maritime Organization in this area,

Reaffirming the importance of enhancing the safety of navigation as well as the necessity for cooperation in this regard,

Emphasizing the importance of the protection of the underwater cultural heritage, and recalling in this context the provisions of article 303 of the Convention,

Expressing its appreciation once again to the Secretary-General for his efforts in support of the Convention and in its effective implementation, including providing assistance in the functioning of the institutions created by the Convention,

Noting the responsibilities of the Secretary-General under the Convention and related resolutions of the General Assembly, in particular resolutions 49/28 and 52/26, and emphasizing the importance of the performance of such responsibilities for the effective and consistent implementation of the Convention,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[6] and reaffirming the importance of the annual consideration and review by the General Assembly of the overall developments pertaining to the implementation of the Convention, as well as of other developments relating to the law of the sea and ocean affairs,

1. *Calls upon* all States that have not done so, in order to achieve the goal of universal participation, to become parties to the Convention and the Agreement;

2. *Reaffirms* the unified character of the Convention;

3. *Calls upon* States to harmonize as a matter of priority their national legislation with the provisions of the Convention, to ensure the consistent application of those provisions and to ensure also that any declarations or statements that they have made or make when signing, ratifying or acceding are in conformity with the Convention and to withdraw any of their declarations or statements that are not in conformity;

4. *Encourages* States parties to the Convention to deposit with the Secretary-General charts and lists of geographical coordinates, as provided for in the Convention;

5. *Urges* the international community to assist, as appropriate, developing countries, including small island developing States, in the preparation and publication of charts under articles 16, 22, 47, 75 and 84 and annex II to the Convention;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to convene the tenth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention in New York from 22 to 26 May 2000;

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[6] A/54/429 and Corr.1.

7. *Notes with satisfaction* the continued contribution of the Tribunal to the peaceful settlement of disputes in accordance with Part XV of the Convention, and underlines its important role and authority concerning the interpretation or application of the Convention and the Agreement;

8. *Encourages* States parties to the Convention to consider making a written declaration choosing from the means set out in article 287 for the settlement of disputes concerning the interpretation or application of the Convention and the Agreement, and invites States to note the provisions of annexes V, VI, VII and VIII to the Convention concerning, respectively, conciliation, the Tribunal, arbitration and special arbitration;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to circulate lists of conciliators and arbitrators drawn up and maintained in accordance with annexes V and VII to the Convention and to update these lists accordingly;

10. *Notes* the current work of the Authority, and emphasizes the importance of the commitment of its members to work expeditiously towards the adoption during 2000 of the regulations on prospecting and exploration for polymetallic nodules;

11. *Notes with appreciation* the adoption of the Headquarters Agreement between the Government of Jamaica and the Authority;[7]

12. *Calls upon* States that have not done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the Tribunal[8] and to the Protocol on the Privileges and Immunities of the Authority;[9]

13. *Appeals* to all States parties to the Convention to pay their assessed contributions to the Authority and to the Tribunal, respectively, in full and on time in order to ensure that they are able to carry out their functions as provided for in the Convention, and appeals also to the States which are former provisional members of the Authority to pay any outstanding contributions;

14. *Notes* the progress in the work of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf ("the Commission"), including the adoption of the scientific and technical guidelines and annexes thereto[10] aimed at facilitating the preparation of submissions regarding the outer limits of the continental shelf in accordance with article 76 and annex II to the Convention, and the adoption of an action plan on training,[11] taking into account, in particular, the needs of developing States;

15. *Welcomes* the decision of the Commission to convene an open meeting during its seventh session, aimed at familiarizing States with the necessity to implement the provisions of article 76 and annex II to the

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[7] ISBA/3/A/L.3, annex.

[8] SPLOS/25.

[9] ISBA/4/A/8, annex.

[10] CLCS/11 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1.

[11] See CLCS/19.

Convention relating to the establishment of the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles, and encourages States to attend the meeting;

16. *Approves* the convening by the Secretary-General of the seventh session of the Commission in New York from 1 to 5 May 2000 and, if necessary, an eighth session from 28 August to 1 September 2000;

17. *Urges* States to take all practicable steps to prevent the pollution of the sea by dumping of radioactive materials and industrial wastes, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the 1972 Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter[12] and its amendments;

18. *Calls upon* States to become parties to and to implement the 1996 Protocol to the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter;[13]

19. *Encourages* States to continue to support the regional seas programme, which has achieved success in a number of geographic areas, and to work within the United Nations Environment Programme to enhance cooperation in the protection of the marine environment;

20. *Calls upon* States to cooperate fully with the International Maritime Organization to combat piracy and armed robbery against ships, including by submitting reports on incidents to that organization;

21. *Also calls upon* States to implement the International Maritime Organization guidelines on preventing attacks of piracy and armed robbery and to cooperate with the International Maritime Organization Correspondence Group, established to draw up standard guidelines for Governments in investigating attacks against ships and prosecuting offenders, and with other initiatives of the organization in this area;

22. *Urges* all States, in particular coastal States in affected regions, to take all necessary and appropriate measures to prevent and combat incidents of piracy and armed robbery at sea, including through regional cooperation, and to investigate or cooperate in the investigation of such incidents wherever they occur and bring the alleged perpetrators to justice, in accordance with international law;

23. *Urges* States to become parties to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation and its Protocol,[14] and to ensure its effective implementation;

24. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for the annual comprehensive report on oceans and the law of the sea[6] prepared by the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat, as well as for the other activities of the Division, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention and the mandate set forth in resolutions 49/28 and 52/26;

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[12] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1046, No. 15749.

[13] IMO/LC.2/Circ.380.

[14] International Maritime Organization publication, Sales No. 462.88.12E.

25. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the institutional capacity of the Organization adequately responds to the needs of States, the newly established institutions under the Convention and other competent international organizations by providing timely advice, information, including the information in his report, and assistance, taking into account the special needs of developing countries;

26. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to carry out the responsibilities entrusted to him in the Convention and related resolutions of the General Assembly, including those mentioned in paragraph 11 of resolution 52/26, and to ensure that the performance of such activities is not adversely affected by savings as may be realized under the approved budget for the Organization;

27. *Reaffirms* the importance of ensuring the uniform and consistent application of the Convention and a coordinated approach to its overall implementation, and of strengthening technical cooperation and financial assistance for this purpose, stresses once again the continuing importance of the efforts of the Secretary-General to these ends, and reiterates its invitation to the competent international organizations and other international bodies to support these objectives;

28. *Invites* Member States and others in a position to do so to contribute to the further development of the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship Programme on the Law of the Sea established by the General Assembly in resolution 35/116 of 10 December 1980;

29. *Also invites* Member States to support the training activities under the TRAIN-SEA-COAST programme of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea;

30. *Notes* the continued work of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization towards a convention for the implementation of the provisions of the Convention, relating to the protection of the underwater cultural heritage, and re-emphasizes the importance of ensuring that the instrument to be elaborated is in full conformity with the relevant provisions of the Convention;

31. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;

32. *Reaffirms* its decision to undertake an annual review and evaluation of the implementation of the Convention and other developments relating to ocean affairs and the law of the sea, taking into account resolution 54/33 of 24 November 1999;

33. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution, including other developments and issues relating to ocean affairs and the law of the sea, in connection with his annual comprehensive report on oceans and the law of the sea, and to provide the report in accordance with the modalities set out in resolution 54/33;

34. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Oceans and the law of the sea".

62nd plenary meeting
24 November1999

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Fifty-fourth session
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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/54/L.28 and Add.1)*]

54/32. Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks

The General Assembly,

Recalling the relevant provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,[1] including Part VII, section 2,

Recognizing that the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks[2] ("the Agreement") sets forth the rights and obligations of States in authorizing the use of vessels flying their flags for fishing on the high seas,

Noting that while twenty-four States or entities have ratified or acceded to the Agreement, the Agreement has not yet entered into force,

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[1] *Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea*, vol. XVII (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.V.3), document A/CONF.62/122.

[2] *International Fisheries Instruments* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.98.V.11), sect. II; see also A/CONF.164/37.

Conscious of the need to promote and facilitate international cooperation, especially at the regional and subregional levels, in order to ensure the sustainable development and use of the living marine resources of the world's oceans and seas, consistent with the present resolution,

Noting that the stock situation for some species of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks is of great concern owing to the fact that those stocks have not been subject to adequate regulatory measures,

Recognizing the importance of actions States and other entities should take in order to share responsibly in the use of high seas fishery resources, including straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks, as outlined in Parts III and IV of the Agreement,

Recognizing also the duty provided in the Agreement and reiterated as a principle in the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations[3] for flag States to exercise effective control over fishing vessels flying their flag and vessels flying their flag which provide support to such vessels, and to ensure that the activities of such vessels do not undermine the effectiveness of conservation and management measures taken in accordance with international law and adopted at the national, subregional, regional or global levels,

Recognizing further that a number of regional fishing organizations and arrangements with competence to establish conservation and management measures regarding straddling fish stocks and/or highly migratory fish stocks are already taking significant conservation measures to promote the recovery and long-term sustainable use of fish stocks worldwide, and that in order for those efforts to succeed it is important that all States and entities, including those which are not members of these organizations or party to these arrangements, cooperate and observe these conservation and management measures,

Taking note of the obligation of States and other entities and regional and subregional fishery management organizations and arrangements to take measures to prevent or eliminate overfishing, and encouraging all States to participate in the work of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on the subject,

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[3] Ibid., sect. III.

Noting that some regional fisheries organizations and arrangements, including those mentioned in the report of the Secretary-General,[4,5] have recently taken measures to ensure that fishing vessels flying the flags of non-members of those organizations or non-parties to those arrangements do not undermine the regionally adopted conservation and management measures,

Recognizing that the Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas[6] builds upon the legal framework established by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and also recognizing the importance of that Agreement and noting that it also has not yet entered into force,

Taking note with concern that straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks in some parts of the world have been subject to heavy and little-regulated fishing efforts, and that some stocks continue to be overfished, mainly as a result of unauthorized fishing,

Concerned that illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing, including that noted in the report of the Secretary-General,[7] threatens serious depletion of populations of certain fish species, and in that regard urging States and entities to collaborate in efforts to address these types of fishing activities,

Noting the importance of the wide application of the precautionary approach to the conservation, management and exploitation of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks, in accordance with the Agreement,

Reaffirming the importance it attaches to compliance with its resolution 46/215 of 20 December 1991, in particular those provisions calling for full implementation of a global moratorium on all large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing on the high seas of the world's oceans and seas, including enclosed seas and semi-enclosed seas,

Reaffirming also its resolution 49/116 of 19 December 1994 on unauthorized fishing in zones of national jurisdiction and its impact on the living marine resources of the world's oceans and seas, as well as its resolution 52/28 of 26 November 1997 and other relevant resolutions,

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[4] A/54/461.

[5] The organizations and arrangements mentioned are: International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, Commission on Biological Resources of the Caspian Sea, General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean, Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources, North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission, South Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency, Multilateral High-level Conference on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific, Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission, Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization, Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission, Fishery Committee for Eastern Central Atlantic and South-East Atlantic Fisheries Organization.

[6] *International Fisheries Instruments* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.98.V.11), sect. II.

[7] Particularly in the Convention area for the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources; see A/54/429, paras. 249–257 and 300–304.

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General[5] on recent developments and current status of the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks;[4]

2. *Calls upon* all States and other entities referred to in article 1, paragraph 2 (*b*), of the Agreement that have not done so to ratify or accede to it and to consider applying it provisionally;

3. *Emphasizes* the importance of the early entry into force and effective implementation of the Agreement;

4. *Reaffirms* the importance it attaches to compliance with its resolutions 46/215, 49/116, 49/118 of 19 December 1994 and 52/28, and urges States and other entities to enforce such measures fully;

5. *Calls upon* all States and other entities referred to in article X, paragraph 1, of the Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas[6] that have not done so to accept that instrument;

6. *Calls upon* all States to ensure that their vessels comply with the conservation and management measures in accordance with the Agreement that have been adopted by subregional and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements;

7. *Calls upon* States not to permit vessels flying their flag to engage in fishing on the high seas without having effective control over their activities and to take specific measures to control fishing operations by vessels flying their flag;

8. *Calls upon* the International Maritime Organization, in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements and other relevant international organizations, and in consultation with States and entities, to define the concept of the genuine link between the fishing vessel and the State in order to assist in the implementation of the Agreement;

9. *Urges* all States to participate in the efforts of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to develop an international plan of action to address illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing, in particular the Meeting of Experts and Technical Consultation in the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations scheduled for 2000, and in all efforts to coordinate all the work of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations with other international organizations, including the International Maritime Organization;

10. *Encourages* all States and entities concerned to work with flag States and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in developing and implementing measures to combat or curb illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing;

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[5] A/54/461.

11. *Calls upon* States to provide assistance to developing States as outlined in the Agreement, and notes the importance of participation by representatives of developing States in forums in which fisheries issues are discussed;

12. *Encourages* States and other entities to integrate in an appropriate manner the requirements for the protection of the environment, notably those resulting from multilateral environmental agreements, in the management of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all members of the international community, relevant intergovernmental organizations, the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, regional and subregional fisheries management organizations or arrangements and relevant non-governmental organizations, and invites them to provide the Secretary-General with information relevant to the implementation of the present resolution;

14. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session a report on further developments relating to the implementation of the present resolution;

15. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-sixth session, under the item entitled "Oceans and the law of the sea", the sub-item entitled "Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks".

62nd plenary meeting
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Fifty-fourth session
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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/54/L.32 and Add.1)*]

54/33. Results of the review by the Commission on Sustainable Development of the sectoral theme of "Oceans and seas": international coordination and cooperation

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 49/28 of 6 December 1994 on the Law of the Sea and 53/32 of 24 November 1998 on oceans and the law of the sea,

Mindful of the importance of the oceans and seas for the earth's ecosystem and for providing the vital resources for food security and for sustaining economic prosperity and the well-being of present and future generations,

Convinced that all aspects of oceans and seas are closely interrelated and need to be considered as a whole,

Recalling that the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea[1] sets out the legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out, and with which these activities should

[1] *Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea*, vol. XVII (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.V.3), document A/CONF.62/122.

be consistent, as recognized also by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in chapter 17 of Agenda 21,[2]

Recognizing the importance of maintaining the integrity of the Convention,

Convinced of the importance of the annual consideration and review of ocean affairs and the law of the sea by the General Assembly, as the global institution having the competence to undertake such a review,

Convinced also of the need, building on existing arrangements, for an integrated approach to all legal, economic, social, environmental and other relevant aspects of oceans and seas and the need to improve coordination and cooperation at both the intergovernmental and inter-agency levels,

Bearing in mind the necessity of strengthening existing structures and mandates within the United Nations system and the need to avoid duplication or overlapping of debates that take place in other forums,

Recognizing the important role that international organizations have in relation to ocean affairs and in promoting sustainable development of the oceans and seas and their resources,

Recognizing also the significant contribution that major groups, as identified in Agenda 21, can make to this goal,

Welcoming the review of the sectoral theme of "Oceans and seas" by the Commission on Sustainable Development, in particular those aspects related to international coordination and cooperation,

1. *Endorses* the recommendations made by the Commission on Sustainable Development through the Economic and Social Council under the sectoral theme of "Oceans and seas" regarding international coordination and cooperation;[3]

2. *Decides*, consistent with the legal framework provided by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the goals of chapter 17 of Agenda 21,[1] to establish an open-ended informal consultative process in order to facilitate the annual review by the General Assembly, in an effective and constructive manner, of developments in ocean affairs by considering the Secretary-General's report on oceans and the law of the sea and by suggesting particular issues to be considered by it, with an emphasis on identifying areas where coordination and cooperation at the intergovernmental and inter-agency levels should be enhanced;

3. *Also decides* that the meetings within the framework of the consultative process will be organized as follows:

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[2] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I, *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

[3] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1999, Supplement No. 9* (E/1999/29), chap. I, sect. C, decision 7/1, paras. 37–45.

(*a*) The meetings will be open to all States Members of the United Nations, States members of the specialized agencies, all parties to the Convention, entities that have received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the work of the General Assembly pursuant to its relevant resolutions,[4] and intergovernmental organizations with competence in ocean affairs;

(*b*) The meetings will take place for one week each year; in 2000 they will be held from 30 May to 2 June;

(*c*) The meetings will deliberate on the Secretary-General's report on oceans and the law of the sea, with due account given to any particular resolution or decision of the General Assembly, any relevant special reports of the Secretary-General and any relevant recommendations of the Commission on Sustainable Development;

(*d*) The meetings should, in identifying areas where coordination and cooperation are to be enhanced, bear in mind the differing characteristics and needs of the different regions of the world, and should not pursue legal or juridical coordination among the different legal instruments;

(*e*) The meetings will be coordinated by two co-chairpersons, who will be appointed by the President of the General Assembly in consultation with Member States and taking into account the need for representation from developed and developing countries;

(*f*) The co-chairpersons will elaborate, in consultation with delegations, a format for the discussions that best facilitates the work of the consultative process, in accordance with the rules of procedure and practices of the General Assembly;

(*g*) In accordance with the rules of procedure and practices of the General Assembly, the format of this informal consultative process should ensure the opportunity to receive input from representatives of the major groups as identified in Agenda 21, in particular through the organization of discussion panels;

(*h*) The meetings may propose elements for the consideration of the General Assembly, including, as appropriate, in relation to Assembly resolutions under the agenda item entitled "Oceans and the law of the sea";

4. *Further decides* to review the effectiveness and utility of the consultative process at its fifty-seventh session;

5. *Highlights* the importance of the participation of developing countries, including least developed countries and small island developing States, in the consultative process, and encourages States and international organizations to support efforts in this regard;

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[4] Resolutions 253 (III), 477 (V), 2011 (XX), 3208 (XXIX), 3237 (XXIX), 3369 (XXX), 31/3, 33/18, 35/2, 35/3, 36/4, 42/10, 43/6, 44/6, 45/6, 46/8, 47/4, 48/2, 48/3, 48/4, 48/5, 48/237, 48/265, 49/1, 49/2, 50/2, 51/1, 51/6, 51/204, 52/6, 53/5, 53/6, 54/5 and 54/10.

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the consultative process with the necessary facilities for the performance of its work and to arrange for support to be provided by the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat, in cooperation with other relevant parts of the Secretariat, including the Division for Sustainable Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, as appropriate;

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, working in cooperation with the heads of relevant organizations of the United Nations, to include in his annual comprehensive report to the General Assembly on oceans and the law of the sea, suggestions on initiatives that could be undertaken to improve coordination and cooperation and achieve better integration on ocean affairs, and requests the Secretary-General to make the report available at least six weeks in advance of the meeting of the consultative process;

8. *Further requests* the Secretary-General, working through appropriate United Nations bodies and in cooperation with the heads of relevant organizations, funds or programmes of the United Nations, to undertake measures aimed at:

(*a*) Ensuring more effective collaboration and coordination between relevant parts of the Secretariat and the United Nations system as a whole on ocean affairs and the law of the sea;

(*b*) Improving the effectiveness, transparency and responsiveness of the Subcommittee on Oceans and Coastal Areas of the Administrative Committee on Coordination;

and to include information on progress in this regard in his next report on oceans and the law of the sea;

9. *Notes* the importance of coordination and cooperation at the national level in order to promote an integrated approach on ocean affairs so as, *inter alia*, to facilitate the effective participation of States in the consultative process and other international forums;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of heads of intergovernmental organizations, the specialized agencies and funds and programmes of the United Nations engaged in activities relating to ocean affairs and the law of the sea, and the Subcommittee on Oceans and Coastal Areas of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, and underlines the importance of their participation in the consultative process and of their input to the report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea;

11. *Invites* Member States, as part of their participation in relevant competent bodies of intergovernmental organizations engaged in activities relating to ocean affairs and the law of the sea, to encourage their participation in the consultative process and their contribution to the report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea.

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Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 22

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/54/L.26 and Add.1)*]

54/34. Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 52/21 of 25 November 1997, in which it decided to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal" and to consider this item every two years in advance of each Summer and Winter Olympic Games,

Recalling also its resolution 48/11 of 25 October 1993, which, *inter alia*, revived the ancient Greek tradition of the *ekecheiria*, or "Olympic Truce", calling for all hostilities to cease during the Games, thereby mobilizing the youth of the world in the cause of peace,

Taking into account resolution CM/Res. 1608 (LXII), adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity at its sixty-second ordinary session, held at Addis Ababa from 21 to 23 June 1995,[1] and endorsed by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of that organization, which supports the appeal for an Olympic Truce,

Recognizing the valuable contribution that the appeal launched by the International Olympic Committee for an Olympic Truce, with which the National Olympic Committees of the Member States are associated, could make towards advancing the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

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[1] A/50/647, annex I.

Reaffirming that the Olympic ideal promotes international understanding, particularly among the youth of the world, through sport and culture in order to advance the harmonious development of mankind,

Noting with satisfaction the flying of the United Nations flag at all competition sites of the Olympic Games and the increasing number of joint endeavours of the International Olympic Committee and the United Nations system, for example in the fields of development, humanitarian assistance, protection of the environment, health promotion, education, eradication of poverty, the fight against AIDS, drug abuse, violence and juvenile delinquency,

Noting also with satisfaction the joint organization by the International Olympic Committee and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization of the World Conference on Education and Sport for a Culture of Peace in Paris from 5 to 7 July 1999, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 52/13 of 20 November 1997, and their initiation of a programme of action pursuant to Assembly resolution 53/243 of 13 September 1999,

1. *Urges* Member States to observe the Olympic Truce during the games of the XXVII Olympiad, to be held at Sydney, Australia, from 15 September to 1 October 2000, the vision of which, at the dawn of the new millennium, is to be a highly harmonious, athlete-oriented and environmentally committed Olympic Games;

2. *Also urges* Member States to take the initiative to abide by the Olympic Truce, individually and collectively, and to pursue, in conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the peaceful settlement of all international conflicts through diplomatic solutions;

3. *Calls upon* all Member States to cooperate with the International Olympic Committee in its efforts to use the Olympic Truce as an instrument to promote peace, dialogue and reconciliation in areas of conflict, beyond the Olympic Games period;

4. *Reaffirms* the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace, adopted in its resolution 53/243, and in this context welcomes the decision of the International Olympic Committee to mobilize all international sports organizations and National Olympic Committees of the Member States to undertake concrete action at the local, national, regional and world levels to promote and strengthen a culture of peace based on the spirit of the Olympic Truce;

5. *Welcomes* the setting up by the International Olympic Committee of an International Olympic Forum for Development, a platform for consultation between intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations on issues related to the development of physical education and sport for all, and an International Centre for the Olympic Truce to promote peace and human values through sport and the Olympic ideal;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to promote the observance of the Olympic Truce among Member States, drawing the attention of world public opinion to the contribution such a truce would make to the promotion of international understanding and the preservation of peace and goodwill, and to cooperate with the International Olympic Committee in the realization of this objective;

7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-sixth session the item entitled "Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal" and to consider this item before the XIX Olympic Winter Games, to be held at Salt Lake City, United States of America, in 2002.

63rd plenary meeting
24 November 1999

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A/RES/54/35
20 January 2000

Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 41

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/54/L.35 and Add.1)*]

54/35. Zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 41/11 of 27 October 1986, in which it solemnly declared the Atlantic Ocean, in the region between Africa and South America, the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic,

Recalling also its subsequent resolutions on the matter, including resolution 45/36 of 27 November 1990, in which it reaffirmed the determination of the States of the zone to enhance and accelerate their cooperation in the political, economic, scientific, cultural and other spheres,

Reaffirming that the questions of peace and security and those of development are interrelated and inseparable and that cooperation for peace and development among States of the region will promote the objectives of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic,

Aware of the importance that the States of the zone attach to the environment of the region, and recognizing the threat that pollution from any source poses to the marine and coastal environment, its ecological balance and its resources,

1. *Reaffirms* the importance of the purposes and objectives of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic as a basis for the promotion of cooperation among the countries of the region;

2. *Calls upon* all States to cooperate in the promotion of the objectives established in the declaration of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic and to refrain from any action inconsistent with

those objectives and with the Charter of the United Nations and relevant resolutions of the Organization, in particular actions that may create or aggravate situations of tension and potential conflict in the region;

3. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General,[1] submitted in accordance with its resolution 53/34 of 25 November 1998;

4. *Recalls* the agreement reached at the third meeting of the States members of the zone, held in Brasilia in 1994, to encourage democracy and political pluralism and, in accordance with the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,[2] to promote and defend all human rights and fundamental freedoms and to cooperate towards the achievement of those goals;

5. *Welcomes with satisfaction* the holding of the fifth meeting of the States members of the zone in Buenos Aires, on 21 and 22 October 1998, and takes note of the Final Declaration and Plan of Action adopted at the meeting;[3]

6. *Welcomes* the progress towards the full entry into force of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco)[4] and of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba);[5]

7. *Also welcomes* the entry into force of the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials,[6] adopted in November 1997, and the adoption of the Inter-American Convention on Transparency in Conventional Weapons Acquisitions by the General Assembly of the Organization of American States in June 1999;

8. *Further welcomes* the decision on the illicit proliferation, circulation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons[7] taken by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its thirty-fifth ordinary session, held in Algiers in July 1999, as well as the decisions on the prevention and combating of illicit trafficking in small arms and related crimes[8] taken by the Council of the Southern African Development Community at its nineteenth Summit of Heads of State or Government, held in Maputo in August 1999, and the initiatives taken by States members of the Economic Community of West

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[1] A/54/447.

[2] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[3] A/53/650, annex.

[4] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 634, No. 9068.

[5] See A/50/426, annex.

[6] A/53/78, annex.

[7] A/54/424, annex II, decision AHG/Dec. 137 (XXXV).

[8] A/54/488–S/1999/1082, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-fourth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1999*, document S/1999/1082.

African States to conclude their agreement on a moratorium on the importing, exporting and manufacture of light weapons;

9. *Welcomes* the restoration of democracy in Nigeria and the commitment of the present Nigerian Government to transparency and good governance;

10. *Also welcomes* the signing of the Peace Agreement between the Government of Sierra Leone and the Revolutionary United Front,[9] in Lomé on 7 July 1999, calls upon the respective parties to implement the agreement fully, commends in this regard the President of Togo and the Economic Community of West African States, together with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sierra Leone and all those involved in facilitating the negotiations in Lomé, on their contribution to this achievement, and welcomes the adoption by the Security Council of resolution 1270 (1999) of 22 October 1999 on the establishment of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone;

11. *Further welcomes* the decision taken by the Government of Liberia to destroy arms and ammunition collected during the disarmament exercise and the completion in Liberia in October of 1999 of the weapons destruction programme, an important step in the fight against the proliferation of arms, which would promote peace, confidence and cooperation in the region;

12. *Welcomes* the signing of the Ceasefire Agreement on the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo,[10] in Lusaka on 10 July 1999, and the adoption by the Security Council of resolution 1258 (1999) of 6 August 1999, commends in that context the Organization of African Unity and the Southern African Development Community and, in particular, the President of Zambia, for their efforts to find a peaceful settlement to the conflict, and also commends the Secretary-General, the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the peace process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Representative of the Secretary-General to the Great Lakes Region and all those who contributed to the peace process;

13. *Calls* for the full implementation of the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement, urges all the parties in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to engage in a process of political dialogue and negotiation without delay, and calls upon the international community to extend the necessary support to the Organization of African Unity, the United Nations and the Joint Military Commission to enable them to carry out their mandate without further delay;

14. *Reaffirms* the importance for Member States to contribute by all means at their disposal to an effective and lasting peace in Angola, and in that context reiterates that the primary cause of the present situation in Angola is the failure of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola under the leadership of Jonas Savimbi to comply with its obligations under the "Acordos de Paz",[11] the Lusaka Protocol[12] and relevant Security Council resolutions;

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[9] *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-fourth Year, Supplement for July, August and September 1999*, document S/1999/777, annex.

[10] Ibid., document S/1999/815, annex.

[11] Ibid., *Forty-sixth Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1991*, document S/22609.

[12] Ibid., *Forty-ninth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1994*, document S/1994/1441.

15. *Views with concern* the humanitarian effects on the civilian population of the present situation in Angola, commends in this regard the efforts of Member States, including the Government of Angola, and humanitarian organizations in rendering humanitarian assistance to Angola, and urges them to continue to provide and to increase such assistance;

16. *Notes* the commitment of the provisional Government of Guinea-Bissau to holding legislative and presidential elections on 28 November 1999, and calls upon the international community and the Government of Guinea-Bissau to support the economic reconstruction of, and to promote the consolidation of democracy in, Guinea-Bissau;

17. *Affirms* the importance of the South Atlantic to global maritime and commercial transactions and its determination to preserve the region for all peaceful purposes and activities protected by international law, in particular the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea;[13]

18. *Calls upon* Member States to continue their efforts towards the achievement of appropriate regulation of maritime transport of radioactive and toxic wastes, taking into account the interests of coastal States and in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the regulations of the International Maritime Organization and the International Atomic Energy Agency;

19. *Views with concern* the increase in drug trafficking and related crimes, including drug abuse, and calls upon the international community and the States members of the zone to promote regional and international cooperation to combat all aspects of the problem of drugs and related offences;

20. *Recognizes*, in the light of the number, magnitude and complexity of natural disasters and other emergencies, the need to strengthen the coordination of humanitarian assistance by States members of the zone, so as to ensure a timely and effective response;

21. *Welcomes* the offer by Benin to host the sixth meeting of the States members of the zone;

22. *Requests* the relevant organizations, organs and bodies of the United Nations system to render all appropriate assistance that States members of the zone may seek in their joint efforts to implement the declaration of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic;

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to keep the implementation of resolution 41/11 and subsequent resolutions on the matter under review and to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session, taking into account, *inter alia*, the views expressed by Member States;

24. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic".

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[13] *Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea*, vol. XVII (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.V.3), document A/CONF.62/122.